



Mu Ko Chumphon National Park

The Chumphon area is popular with Bangkok residents as it is the Gulf's nearest southern diving destination offering a wide selection of attractions, both natural and man-made, including spectacular beaches, over 40 permeable-limestone islands, picturesque landscapes featuring waterfalls, caves and holy shrines. The other main islands in the group are; Ko NgamYai Island (east Cliff Rocks), Ko Ngam Noi Island, Ko Kalok Island, Ko Thalu Island, Ko Lak Ngam Island, Ko Samet Island, Ko Mattra Island, Ko Maphrao Island, Ko Lak Raet Island, Ko Lawa Island, Ko Kula Island, Ko Rang Ka Chiu Island, Ko Klaep Island, Ko Kula Island, and Ko Khram Island

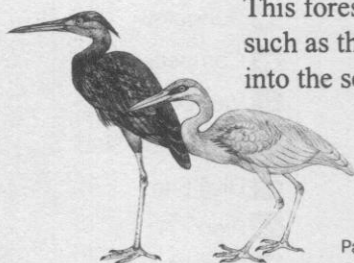
Mu Ko Chumphon National Park covers a total area of 317 sq.kms. The park is relatively close to Chumphon town located 30 kms east in Hat Sai Ri.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Beach forest : This forest type is characteristic of the more exposed beachfronts around the coast of Thailand and is dominated by Casurina pines. Due to the severe waterstress occurring above the beach zone the tree density and total species diversity in beach forest is low when compared to other forest types. This forest type has a moderately rich bird fauna.

Limestone forest : occurs on the exposed cliff faces and in the very shallow soils on top of the limestone hills. Most of the plants found here are small and highly adapted to survive in this severe environment.

Mangrove forest : Mangrove forest is an evergreen forest type. It is restricted to the area where freshwater and seawater mix and cannot survive in pure freshwater or pure seawater. This forest type occurs in sheltered locations such as the mouth of streams and rivers flowing into the sea and especially in estuaries.



Pacific Reef-Egret
Egretta sacra

DIVE SITES

Local diving is concentrated around the outer islands and rocky outcrops in the area north and southeast of Chumphon sea. The nearer offshore islands are greatly effected by freshwater runoff and thus have unhealthy corals and little marine life; they are not really suitable for diving.

The plankton-rich waters attract a healthy diversity of marine life around the islands; fringing reefs. Populations are high and pelagics frequent. Garden of fire, staghorns and small boulders of lesser star corals dominate the fringing reef-flats, with a range of black seafans and long sea whips being confined to the lower reef-slopes.

Visibility ranges from 3m (10ft) to over 20m (66ft) and currents are moderate enough for divers of any level. In calm conditions night-diving around the islands can be very pleasant. The diving season is April to October.

Dive Sites are in Mu ko Chumphon National Park : Ngam Yai Island , Ngam Noi Island, Hin Lak, Ngam, Kalok Island, Thalu Island, Lak Ngam Island, Mattra Island, I raet Island.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Chumphon Province, Which has eight districts, is 500 Km (310 miles) south of Bangkok. Chumphon Town lies on the intersection of the main routes to the southwest. It was named over 600 years ago from the Thai word Chumnumphon, meaning "social meeting places". White sand , blue skies, and turquoise waters. This sums up what we offer visitors looking for relaxing seaside holidays in Thailand. Coral reefs, spectacular scenery and a multitude of tropical islands let you really stretch out and relax.

Scuba diving, snorkeling, fresh sumptuous seafood, nature hikes, village visits, or just relaxing on the beach. It can all be found here.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Drive west from Bangkok on the Thonburi-Pak Tho Highway that begins at the western end of Rama 9 Bridge. At the end at a T-junction, turn left on to H4 and drive through Prachuap Khiri Khan Province at 460 km. Turning left to Chumphon Province. From the bus station in town a taxi can easily be hired for the remaining 21 km to the park.

Mu Ko Chumphon National Park Map

